

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraph [0018] with the following amended paragraph:

[0018] Fig. 2 is a detail showing two shafts, which are inclined in the transporting direction of the containers; [[and]]

Please replace paragraph [0019] with the following amended paragraph:

[0019] Fig. 3, a view of two shafts in section and a container transported at a predetermined angular position[.]; **and**

Please add the following new paragraph after paragraph [0019]:

[0019.1] Fig. 4 is a view taken in the direction of arrow 13 in Fig. 3 showing the unilateral thickening of the shaft 4.

Please replace paragraph [0021] with the following amended paragraph:

[0021] In the drawings an exemplary embodiment of an apparatus 1 for transporting containers 2 is shown, with which the containers 2 are transported, for instance via suitable shunts, throughout a treatment chamber, such as a sterilization chamber 20 (Fig. 3), not described further here. In this sterilization chamber (20), the containers can be exposed to a plasma, which is generated at a plasma source that is supplied for instance with high-frequency or microwave energy. The apparatus 1 has a number of rotatable shafts, of which here only the shafts 3 and 4 are identified, since between them the containers 2 are transported, as will be described in still further detail in conjunction with the other drawings. The spacings between the containers 2 may be adjusted by means of a worm gear [[11]] **14** mounted on at least one shaft 3, 4.

Appl. No. 10/522,950
Amdt. dated Dec. 23, 2005
Reply to Office action of Sept. 23, 2005

Please replace paragraph [0025] with the following amended paragraph:

[0025] For instance, **as shown in Fig. 4**, by means of a unilateral thickening of the shaft 4, the container 2 can in principle be put into a nearly vertical position. In addition, by varying the axial spacing 10 of the bearings of the shafts 3 and 4, still other container diameters can be handled as well.